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April 8, 2005

Jeff S. Jordan
Supervisory Attorney
Office of Legal Counsel -
Federal Election Commission
999 E Street, NW
Washington, DC 20463

Re: MUR 5650

Dear Mr. Jordan:

This firm represents Friends of John McCain and Thomas R. Holtrop, Treasurer, in Matter Under Review ("MUR") 5650. The Commission has already received a signed designation of Counsel in this Matter.

The Complaint in this Matter alleges that Friends of McCain received "an illegal contribution of gifts-in-kind, paid for by public resources and public funds" in the form of an invitation to participate in a campaign debate sponsored by the University of Arizona.

To the knowledge of Friends of McCain, the University of Arizona used entirely acceptable and non-partisan standards in determining which candidates to include in the political debate the University sponsored. The University included the general election candidates of Arizona's two major political parties, and apparently determined that no other candidate met any applicable standard for public support and participation in the debate.

Further, Respondent respectfully urges the Commission to find that there is no violation of federal election law stated in the complaint because the University of Arizona is a public body, and as a matter of law is not considered to make contributions to federal candidates.

Sincerely,


Trevor Potter

Counsel to Friends of McCain

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